

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-27 (Canceled).

28. (Currently amended) A water purification apparatus having an inlet and an outlet, and at least one water purification means thereinbetween, wherein the outlet includes at least a first water release means and a second water release means, the first water release means being operable at a first flow rate, and the second water release means being operable at a second flow rate, the first flow rate differing from the second flow rate.

29. (Previously presented) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the outlet includes further water release means.

30. (Previously presented) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the rate of release of water through the outlet is controlled by the first flow rate, or the second flow rate, or a combination thereof.

31. (Canceled).

32. (Previously presented) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the water release means operate in parallel.

33. (Previously presented) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the water release means provide alternative flow paths for water through the outlet.

34. (Previously presented) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein each water release means is independently controllable from the or every other water release means.

35. (Previously presented) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein at least one water release means is operable at a relatively slow flow rate and at least one other water release means is operable at a relatively fast flow rate.

36. (Previously presented) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein the at least one water release means is operable at a relatively slow flow rate of up to 0.1 litres per minute, the at least one water release means is operable at a relatively fast flow rate of up to 2 litres per minute.

37. (Previously presented) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the operation and/or flow rate of at least one water release means is wholly or substantially dependent upon the operation and/or flow rate through at least one other water release means.

38. (Currently amended) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein the operation of the relatively fast flow rate water release means is dependent upon operation of the relatively slow flow rate water release means.

39. (Previously presented) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the apparatus includes one or more water pumps.

40. (Previously presented) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 39, wherein the or each pump is linked with one or more of the water release means.

41. (Previously presented) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the water release means are operable automatically.

42. (Currently amended) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the apparatus includes a control means for controlling the outlet flow and flow rate through all the water release means.

43. (Currently amended) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 42, wherein the control means is pre-programmed to calculate the rate of flow through each water release means.

44. (Previously presented) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the degree of operation of each water release means is dependent upon the amount or volume of water to be dispensed through the outlet.

45. (Previously presented) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the apparatus includes a recirculation system to provide recirculation around at least a part of the apparatus of any water treated by the or each water purification means.

46. (Previously presented) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 45, wherein the recirculation unit includes one or more pressure-sustaining means to maintain outlet pressure.

47. (Previously presented) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the apparatus includes one or more alarm means to provide a signal concerning the flow rate of the outlet and/or the flow rate of one or more of the water release means.

48. (Previously presented) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 28, adapted to provide a pre-set volume of water by automatic operation of one or each relevant water release means.

49. (Currently amended) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the water release means are valves.

50. (Currently amended) A water purification apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the first water release means and second water release means combine their flows prior to dispense of the flow from the outlet.

51. (Currently amended) A method for dispensing water from a water purification apparatus having an inlet and an outlet, and at least one water purification means thereinbetween, the outlet including at least a first water release means and a second water release means, the first water release means being operable at a first flow rate, and the second water release means being operable at a second flow rate, the first flow rate differing from the second flow rate.

52. (Previously presented) A method of dispensing water as claimed in claim 51, wherein the dispense of water from the outlet is controlled through at least one of the water release means.

53. (Previously presented) A method of dispensing water as claimed in claim 51, wherein the apparatus includes a pump which is automatically controlled by a control means.

54. (Previously presented) A method of dispensing water as claimed in claim 51, wherein the water is provided by a first water release means having a relatively fast flow rate followed by a second water release means having a relatively slow flow rate.

55. (Currently amended) A method of dispensing water as claimed in claim 53, wherein the second water release means provides an initial relatively slow dispensement prior to the dispensement from the first water release means.

56. (Currently amended) A method of dispensing water as claimed in claim 51, wherein the flow from the first water release means and the flow from the second water release means combine prior to the dispense of water from the outlet.